

### Specification Amendments

Page 2, cancel the paragraphs appearing at lines 11-25, and substitute therefor:

As can be seen from the figures, the improved coupling element 2 of the invention is applied to the ends of the central web 4 of a beam 3 of inverted T cross-section, said element being formed separately and applied to each beam part during its construction. The upper end of web 4 is indicated by reference numeral 6 in FIG. 1.

The coupling element comprises a substantially rectangular first portion 8 applied by ~~traditional riveting rivets 7~~ to the ends of the central web, the portion 8 extending into a second portion 10 of lesser height, ~~which~~ Portion 10 is bent substantially to V-shape with a portion or leg 12 coplanar with the first portion 8 and with a depending second portion or leg 14; the legs are connected by bent portion 15. ~~comprising a.~~ A tooth 16 is obtained by cutting and plastic deformation of portion or leg 14. ~~the~~ The free end of the tooth substantially facing faces the end of the first portion 8. A step 8a is formed at the intersection between first portion 8 and second portion 10.

~~The central web 4 comprises a substantially rectangular cut-out 18 with its major side having a length substantially corresponding to that of the second position 10 of the coupling element. A step 8a is formed at the intersection between first section 8, which possesses greater height or thickness, and second portion 10, which possesses lesser height or thickness, as shown in Figure 4.~~

The central web 4 comprises a substantially rectangular cut-out 18 with its minor side provided with a projection 20 and with its major side having a height substantially corresponding to that of the second portion 10 of the coupling element.